PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P200116PC00	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. **PCT/AU2003/001488**	International Filing Date *(day/month/year)* 10 November 2003	Priority Date *(day/month/year)* 15 November 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC **Int. Cl.** [7] H05B 6/02, 6/46		
Applicant FAIRFIELD ELECTRONICS PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the report
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of the report
4 February 2004	17 February 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer **LARS KOCH** Telephone No. (02) 6283 2551

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2003/001488

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

[X] the international application as originally filed.

[ ] the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

[ ] the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

[ ] the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

[ ] the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

[ ] the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

[ ] the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

[ ] the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

[ ] contained in the international application in written form.

[ ] filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

[ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

[ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

[ ] The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

[ ] The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. [ ] The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

[ ] the description, pages

[ ] the claims, Nos.

[ ] the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. [ ] This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* *Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).*

** *Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report*

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2003/001488

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 21	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 - 21	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 21	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Novelty (N), Inventive Step (IS)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered as relevant for the purposes of this report:

D1: WO 1998/027823
D2: WO 2001/030118

D1 discloses a method and apparatus for heating foodstuffs which exhibit neither fully dielectric nor fully inductive behaviour in which the foodstuffs are exposed to combined oscillating electric and magnetic fields. The magnetic field heats the product during the stage where it behaves predominantly as a conductor, while the electric field heats the product during the stage when it behaves predominantly as an insulator. However, D1 does not disclose or suggest the application of such a method or apparatus to the heating of refractory oxides.

D2 discloses a process for microwave heating of a material in which separate regions of pure magnetic and electric fields are produced within a cavity. Different materials were shown to have different heating behaviours in the electric and magnetic field regions. D2 does not disclose or suggest the combined use of electric and magnetic fields to heat refractory oxides.

Claims 1 - 21 therefore meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2) for novelty, and meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(3) for Inventive Step.